

## PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING RECORD

**DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING:** Wednesday, May 7, 2014, 1:00 p.m., Hearing Room 112 on the first floor of the County-City Building, 555 S. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Michael Cornelius, Chris Hove, Jeanelle Lust, Lynn Sunderman, Tracy Corr, Cathy Beecham, Maja V. Harris and Dennis Scheer (Ken Weber absent); Marvin Krout, David Cary, Mike Brienzo, Sara Hartzell and Jean Preister of the Planning Department; other Department representatives; and other interested citizens.

**STATED PURPOSE OF MEETING:** Special Public Hearing  
**Planning Commission Review Edition of the FY2014-15 thru 2019-20 Capital Improvements Program (CIP); the FY2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program; and amendment to the Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)**

Chair Jeanelle Lust called the meeting to order and acknowledged the posting of the Open Meetings Act in the back of the room.

*[Planning Commission Record of the MPO Special Public Hearing Agenda items.]*

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE  
LINCOLN MPO 2040 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION  
PLAN (LRTP) CONCERNING THE LINCOLN SOUTH BELTWAY.  
PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE PLANNING COMMISSION:**

May 7, 2014

Members present: Corr, Beecham, Cornelius, Hove, Harris, Scheer, Sunderman and Lust; Weber absent.

Staff recommendation: Approval.

Staff presentation: **Mike Brienzo of Planning staff** advised that this LRTP amendment is a proposal by the Nebraska State Department of Roads (NDOR) to amend the Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) LRTP and supporting Technical Report to show the Lincoln South Beltway project as a priority project by moving it from the listing of Unfunded State Projects to the list of Committed State Projects (funded) and revising the fiscally constrained project listing of the MPO Roadway Projects in the Transportation Plan.

Brienzo stated that the project has been and continues to be coordinated with the City of Lincoln and Lancaster County, and both agree with the NDOR proposal to amend the LRTP at this time. This is to identify the Lincoln South Beltway project as a priority project

in the fiscally constrained road projects.

Brienzo further stated that there is a long history of this project, dating back to the 1970's. The concept has undergone a number of variations but at this time, the NDOR has assumed it as an alternative route for Nebraska Highway 2. NDOR has been provided state funding through the Build Nebraska Act, and this, coupled with some federal funds and local funds, makes the development possible.

Jim Wilkinson from Project Planning at NDOR was in attendance to answer questions.

Lust commented that the briefing provided last week was very comprehensive, thus the lack of questioning at this time.

Harris inquired as to the most recent public input process on this project, in that the South Beltway has been in the works for a long time. Brienzo advised that the project was revived last year to update the Environmental Impact Statement, and that was open to public review in June as the study was re-started. The environmental review is now underway and we would expect it to take another six to eight months; then that is handed off to Federal Highway Administration for their review as well as other federal agencies. It is anticipated that there will be more public meetings on the project itself to take place later this year in the fall. Once the environmental document is completed and approved, the project will undergo design and full construction. At this time, construction is anticipated to begin in 2020.

#### Support

**1. Kyle Fischer** appeared on behalf of the **Lincoln Chamber of Commerce**. He commented that there is reason to celebrate when we get to put the South Beltway back on the funded list. It was a big blow to the community when the project was taken off the funding list. The Chamber has worked very hard to get LB84 funded through the Legislature to get that funding back on track for Lincoln and all of Nebraska. He is hopeful that the Commission will support this amendment and celebrate what a momentous occasion this is.

#### **THE LINCOLN/LANCASTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FOR FISCAL YEARS 2015-2018. PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE PLANNING COMMISSION:**

May 7, 2014

Members present: Corr, Beecham, Cornelius, Hove, Harris, Scheer, Sunderman and Lust; Weber absent.

Staff recommendation: A finding of general conformance with the 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

Ex parte communications: Cathy Beecham disclosed that she participated in a citizen advisory committee regarding Penny Bridge.

Staff presentation: **Mike Brienzo of Planning staff** stated that the TIP is a program of projects that are developing to satisfy the federal requirements to coordinate projects and to list any project that will receive federal funding. This program is coordinated with all transportation agencies within the planning area in Lancaster County, including the state NDOR projects, County Engineer projects, City projects, Public Works & Utilities transportation projects as well as StarTran, Lincoln Airport Authority, Parks & Recreation, Lower Platte South NRD and Hickman, which has a trails project that is receiving federal funding. The TIP is a four-year program and it is coordinated with the LRTP, which is a fiscally constrained document, making the TIP a fiscally constrained document. It is also coordinated with the Comprehensive Plan, using the Comprehensive Plan as a foundation. The LRTP is much more detailed and the documentation therein is more extensive.

The staff is recommending a finding of conformity, with the amendment to the LRTP concerning the South Beltway.

There was no other public testimony.

#### **LRTP AMENDMENT**

##### **ACTION BY PLANNING COMMISSION:**

May 7, 2014

Cornelius moved approval, seconded by Hove.

Cornelius commented that it is exciting to see this development. He was disappointed to see it go from funded to unfunded, and now it is good to see it come back.

Hove stated that he is also very excited. The South Beltway is really needed and we need to push it forward as quickly as possible.

Motion for approval carried 8-0: Corr, Beecham, Cornelius, Hove, Harris, Scheer, Sunderman and Lust voting 'yes'; Weber absent.

#### **2015-18 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

##### **ACTION BY PLANNING COMMISSION:**

May 7, 2014

Beecham moved to approve a finding of general conformance with the 2040 MPO Long Range Transportation Plan, as amended by the foregoing LRTP amendment, seconded by Scheer.

Lust believes these are good projects for the city and she believes that the finding of general conformance is appropriate.

Motion carried 8-0: Corr, Beecham, Cornelius, Hove, Harris, Scheer, Sunderman and Lust voting 'yes'; Weber absent.